



ARENA REPORT



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Dick Slater & The Barbarian? New U.S. Tag Champs???? That's what was reported to me on my answering machine a few hours ago (Friday, June 26). Unless Bruce Grummert decided to get funny in his ongoing years, I think Bill Watts is losing it. I'll have confirmation in "Ramblings". In any case, welcome to another journey into "AR". Marianne Ryan's column showed up so we got 4 columns this ish joining Scott, Evan, and Mike. Don't forget that we'll be taking a three week break instead of 2 as I leave for Connecticut on 7/2 and won't return until 7/12 just in time for the Bash. Keep those results and letters coming.

Let's see if I can get this information right since everyone else is getting it wrong. Arena Report is published bi-weekly at the cost of \$1.00 per issue. A number on your label indicates how many issues you have remaining. All renewals, letters, and results may be sent to Arena Report, P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547.

#LIVE REPORT#

INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

Friday, June 19, 1992

Chain O'Lakes Civic Center
Winter Haven, FL

Opening Match

Rob Van Damme over Kevin Catlin in 11:22. Everyone is enthralled with Van Damme but I haven't seen anything too special yet. * for finish as he leaped over Catlin who was on the mat and did a moonsault for the win.

2nd Match

Firecat (Brady Boone) beat Java Ruuk (Tony Mella) in 14:23. Both usually look better especially Boone but neither did much. Boone was a sub for Caribbean Kid Berto who is over big time since he's from Winter Haven. Finish saw Mella pick up Cat for a suplex but Brady rolled him up. ½*

3rd Match

Mr. Terrific (Tim Parker) beat Chris Proctor on a reverse decision in 14:35. Another disappointing bout as both have ability to work a good bout. Parker was a sub for Denny Brown. I'm glad he stayed away. One great spot saw Parker miss an elbow from the top rope. Parker was using an object but Chris got it away and nailed him with it for the pin but the ref found the object in his trunks and DQ'd him. 3/4*

4th Match

Randy Rhodes & Firecat beat the Nuclear Assassins in the longest 31:01 you'll ever see. It started out with Rhodes vs. one of the Nukes but they did a lot of switching and Rhodes went to get Boone. At this point in the card I was beginning to wonder if this was the same IWF I had been going nuts for the past year about. Rhodes pinned one of the Nukes with a sunset flip from the ring apron. Dud

IWF TV Title-Winter Haven Street Fight

Al Hardiman beat Cliff Anderson via DQ in 11:25. There were lumberjacks around the ring. At the nine minute mark as special guest referee Eddie Mansfield tried to keep Cliff away from Al, Anderson decked Mansfield. He beat on Eddie until Eddie made the comeback. He busted Cliff open outside and then hit him with a Lawler like fist drop from the second rope and Hardiman played along and counted the pin. After being out of the ring for so long, Eddie surprisingly looked good. I'm not positive but this may have been Cliff's swan song. **½ for post match antics.

Main Event-Tag Team Match

The Possessor & Stomper beat Bret Colt & Blackjack Mulligan in 17:45. Decent action. Mulligan subbed for Kip Winchester. Blackjack was draped over the middle ropes when he got cranked with a chair and Stomper made the pin. *½ NOTES: Place was packed with an estimate of 300....Crowd was into it for what I thought was the worst IWF house show I've seen.

#RAMBLINGS#

We start this issue off with a sad note as wrestling legend "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers died 6/26 after complications from two massive strokes suffered during the week. Rogers was 71 years old. Services were held in Ft. Lauderdale this past Tuesday. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.....Lots of TV taping news this ish. First we'll go to Kansas City and WCW Pro taping held on 6/25 in front of 1,200. This is unique. The show started 15 minutes late so Bill Watts came out and told the crowd that since they were late in getting going, he'll cut \$2.00 off the ticket price to the next show if you show your stub. Good P.R. or what. Dick Slater & The Barbarian did win the US tag belts from the Freebirds. I was told that Barbie looks off the juice. Slater & Barbarian actually were part of a trio throughout the tapings as they intermixed teaming and tripleteaming on faces with the returning Dan Spivey. I don't understand why Watts brought Dick & Barbie in. Slater still has the look but the skills have eroded. Cactus Jack is basically a hit man for Paul E. as Dangerously comes to the ring with Jack. Cactus beat Larry Zbyszko. Ron Simmons over Richard Morton. Rude beat Steamboat in a dark match. Spivey's gimmick is that he powerbombs jobbers and they get stretchered out. Valentine and Dustin have a brawl during an interview segment in which Slater & Barbarian come out for a 3 on 1 until Windham & Steamer make the save. Super Invader made Bagwell submit. In a bout with Slater & Valentine vs. Steamboat & Windham, Barbarian comes out for a 3 on 2 until Dustin runs in with his leg heavily bandaged (injured during the interview brawl) and Slater comes off the top rope on his leg again. Sting beat Steve Austin in a dark match. In the title change finish, it was Slater piledriving Garvin for the win. Spivey teamed with both Barbie & Slater in squash tags. As you can see they really pushed these 3. These shows will air weekends of 7/4, 7/11, 7/18..... Next let's go to Topeka on 6/26 for World Wide tapings which drew 3,500. Slater & Valentine beat Pillman & Zenk when Dick piledrove Zenk. Barbarian used a boot to the face to beat Bagwell who is looking like a glorified jobber more each day. Steamboat & Windham beat Cactus & Austin when Barry pinned Steve. Simmons beat Valentine in a dark match. Pillman & Bagwell over Morton & Flamingo when Brian pinned Morton. Steve Austin defended his title by pinning Pillman after the stun gun. Brad Armstrong over Tracy Smothers. Sting & Steamboat beat Austin & Rude in a Kansas Street Fight in a ***** all out brawl. These last two reports were just the highlights as there were many squashes of course. Doc & Gordy worked in Kansas City but just did an interview in Topeka. Steiners were in Japan for their big bout vs. Vader & Bigelow so they weren't there.....Now that the Freebirds lost the belts they'll get rid of Garvin (I hope) and keep Hayes duties to color commentary.....How's this for a believe it or not: Jane Fonda appeared on the WWF Bodystars show on USA. Vinee was having a ball with it on the syndies over the weekend cracking about Fonda and Ted Turner.....There's a chance Scotty Flamingo will be losing the lightheavy belt as he appeared on the tapings with the belt but other matches without. Pillman won't get it back but it'll go to either Liger, Armstrong, or Badd. Could lose it at the Omni to Armstrong.....Another ridiculous WCW rule. Heels and faces can't take the same plane anywhere. So some of the guys will have to fly out of cities at 6:30 in the morning so the other group will catch the later flight. Are we hardcores crying yet.....Man Mountain Brody won the CWF Title by winning a battle royal on 6/26 in Tampa. CWA boots a lady referee as Annette Smith bossed the first couple of matches.....6/26 in the Boatyard Village in St. Pete saw Tex Sallenger beat Robert Fuller in a barbed wire match. Also Jimmy Backlund over Dean Malenko and Mark Starr beat Joe Malenko.....Did you catch Nikita throwing Madusa clear across the ring this weekend? You know the first person I think of when I see those type of angles involving women? Steve Beverly.....How did you like WCW excuse for guys using the top rope on the syndies this weekend. They said they had a two week grace period. Yeah, what about the PPV and bouts on TBS? They were just too embarrassed to say for two more weeks that, "These bouts were taped prior to the new rules"....Jeff Bowdren has two 6 hour Smoky Mountain tapes from March-June for \$20.00 a piece. Write him at P.O. Box 16814, Plantation, FL 33318.....Herb Abrams was back in business as he taped a UWF show in Spartanburg, SC on 6/19 in front of 912 fans. Among those on the card were Steve Ray & Sunny Beach, Bob Orton billed as the Southern States champ, Ivan Koloff, Paul Orndorff, Barry Horowitz, Pez Whatley, Nightstalker, Jimmy Valiant, and Helmut Heesler. Main event saw Orndorff beat Orton for the Southern title in the last taping. Of course Abrams had to get involved in the show as during a Valiant-Koloff bout Abrams ran out and said he saw Koloff use a chain for the victory. Col. Red who is Koloffs manager attacked Herb with a cane and Abrams juiced and did a stretcher job.....IWF taping on 7/4 at Universal includes a tourney for the TV title..... Larry Sharpe starts next week on channel 38 in Tampa running old Jersey WWA shows until he gets some in the can down here.....There is no more mention of the GWF on Memphis TV as Max Andrews threatened Jarrett with a lawsuit..... Has anyone seen Hulk Hogan in those promo pics for his new movie. Hell, my arms are bigger. Amazing what weightlifting can do for you!!!

(Continued on page 10)

IT'S MY 2-CENTS

By Mike Terry

Back again with talent on loan from God! Rush Limbaugh said it, but it sure applies to me, doesn't it? Doesn't it? Well.....what about talent on loan from Hulk Hogan. That's almost as good, isn't it? Oh.....

"Can this be?" I thought to myself as Beach Brawl ended. "Can this really be the best PPV I've ever had the pleasure of witnessing?" Maybe it's just me, maybe it was just my mood on that Saturday night, but I can't ever recall seeing an all-around better show as far as action goes. Rude-Steamboat was probably the best match I can remember seeing. Sting-Cactus was also off the meter. Gosh, I enjoyed that show! What the show lacked was something to build to--a much-anticipated main event. The tag match was not at this point a mass-appeal event which is why I found it strange to see it end the show, especially with the draw finish. I guess we're being re-educated, and that's OK with me, but that last impression people have of the show should be one that'll get em talking--an emotional peak of some type. That was lacking. Considering the small PPV audience, and relative lack of build-up for Doc & Gordy, the finish didn't surprise me. I'll bet the Cowboy wants to take his time building the feud between the 2 teams, and the Clash finish was certainly an excellent way to do it. What a pleasant surprise--clean-cut victories. First a clean pin with Flamingo over Pillman, then at the Clash--the Steiners go down.

I enjoyed the Clash overall, but I don't think the TBS ratings analysts will. Again, nothing to build to--no heated confrontation. They did a fine job within the show leading to the 2nd round match with the Steiners-Doc & Gordy, but a load of fans had probably already checked out.....did you notice that Jim Ross' name was above Virgil Runnels in the end credits? Alphabetical order, I guess.

What a pleasure getting to see Lance Russell doing the tag tournament buildups. He is Mr. Credibility. I hope the Cowboy sees it that way and expands Russell's role. Let him do some interviews--he's sooooo good at those.....another little touch the Cowboy might consider is occasionally having the referees throw the managers out, just like in baseball. "You're outta here!!!!!" That'd elicit a pop.

Diamond Stud is the ultimate crud, IF, in fact, he was being paid by WCW all those months he was off, then jumped ship the moment he was better.

Quote of the month #1 from Sting: "Everybody wants to gobble the Stinger up." Make up your own joke. Quote #2 from Madusa: "Missy--you're doing what you do best-----BLOWING-----hot air." And #3 from Terry Simms on Billy Joe Travis: "You stole everything you ever earned." (Woops, he thinks, that didn't come out right, let me try again.) "That's how you earned it--you stole it."

When will Marty Janetty surface again in a major promotion? Or maybe the relevant question is: when will Marty decide he wants us to see him in a major promotion again?

So NBC heralds Jay Leno's opening week ratings as being up 22% over Carson's final month of shows. Have they hired Titan Sports' PR department?

Someone wrote some time back that TBS was still paying Ole Anderson a salary since his contract was still in effect. If so, that could be one reason he's back.....I don't think I'd want to be Liz Poffo's new boyfriend.....Tatsumi Fujinami throws what I call a "lead-ass" dropkick. You know, the kind where the ass just doesn't quite get up in the air.....Rick Rude must be using that fabulous new Icopro diet supplement--it's really worked wonders.....and for what it's worth, that's my 2-cents.

SCOTT HUDSON'S.....

GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL

THE "OH MY GOD! HE HAS NO TAPING RESULTS OR OBSCURE INDEPENDANT SHOWS TO REPORT ON - SO HE HAS TO WING IT!" COLUMN. (YOU KNEW THIS WAS COMING...)

THE STEINER CONTROVERSY: Everyone seems to believe that the Steiner boys are doing something wrong. They are not. Not selling for an opponent is an age old tradition that goes back to..well..the Road Warriors. I have no problem with the Steiners current attitude because of one reason: It's their attitude to have. I have been in the ring with Cactus Jack in Dallas and can tell you that my opinion of what happens in the ring can not be considered 100% accurate because I am not a wrestler. When I can go sixty minutes with Ric Flair I will criticize someone's attitude. Until then, I'll just grade to quality of the match as a whole and leave the attitudes to the dudes.

BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO: Two years ago, Akira Maeda's UWF broke into approximately 30 million different promotions. Now, the Lucha Libre has suffered a similar fate. So far the only nation to avoid this calamity has been the good ole U. S. of A. It may sound far fetched and if it never does happen, this entire paragraph would have been wasted; but think about the consequences. Is it possible for the WWF to break up into a northeast territory and an eastern Canadian spur? Sorry, sorry..just thinking.

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK: WCW has taken a giant step (in which direction only time will tell) with the addition of Dick Slater, Dan Spivey, and The Barbarian. What is bad about this is I cannot think of other Americans out there who are available who would be better additions.

LONG LIVE THE KING: If you have not had a chance to watch the angle on Memphis television pitting the GWF against the USWA, you are missing one of the more original angles of the year. I know what you're saying: "This was done years ago with the USWA and World Class". Wrong. This one at least makes sense. Mike Samples as the GWF commissioner is doing a very credible job at getting the angle over. Jerry Lawler is once again the early favorite for Best Interview with his work of late. The only downside to the entire picture is Eddie Marlin. The last two weeks shows have been little more that "The Eddie Marlin Show". That guy has all the heat of an ice cube and all the charisma of a used condom. To quote the perfectly horrible Corey Macklin "Jerry Jarrett! Get this Eddie Marlin outta here!"

ON TOP OF OLD SMOKEY: I cannot say enough positive about what I have seen of Smokey Mountain Wrestling. The tournament in Knoxville was a thoroughly enjoyable experience that appeared to be a good foundation for a successful group and territory.

IN UPCOMING ISSUES: WCW taped at Center Stage on June 29, well after Atilla the Ron's dead line. WCW return's to the Omni on July 5. Craig Johnson makes his return as a heel manager with SWA on July 17. NGWA has its next TV taping the same night as the WCW Bash PPV, July 12. That's right. A big PPV only two hours away and I'm at the Alpharetta auction barn taping TV. Damn, that's loyalty. See ya' in two weeks.

THE LAST WORD...

Why do I have the feeling that if Buddy Rogers were alive to day, he could make Rick and Scott Steiner scream in pain? Could the once and future "Nature Boy" hook the Bay City Bullies into a pretzel and make them run screaming to mama? We have lost one of the toughest of the tough. There will never be another. *J*

A PIECE OF MY MIND- BY: EVAN GINZBURG

Let's see, now. I can do the "usual." I could criticize Vince McMahon, but I really see no need for it, because just by turning on the tv tapings you can see what a sad vomitous joke the WWF's deteriorated into. Or I can defend Mike Lano's "honor" once again against AR readers who simply don't realize what a helluva decent guy he is, and just how much he does to promote pro wrestling (without any profit motive). Or I could once again state that Gordon Scozzari of the AWF has gotten a raw deal in fandom, and is regrouping on a smaller level (the AWF banner recently flew over a West Haven, Conn. spot show in which Marty Jannety and Paul Roma had an excellent 25 minute main-event & he's gearing up for several impressive indie cards). Instead, let's go onto some different "odds & ends" that you may hopefully find of interest...

INDIE FUN:

What would you do if you just sat through a half dozen mediocre & horrendous bouts, and the promoter, knowing you're a "sheet guy" walks up to you and asks "How did you enjoy the show?"

You half lie and tell him "I had a great time."

Now the reason I say "half lie" is that there is just something indescribably fun about hitting a small gym, and watching young guys "putting out" in front of 300 or so people, and older stars who have "seen better days" getting close to the fans. I recently caught a Jimmy Snuka- Tony Atlas main-event in a Brooklyn Catholic school, and although far from memorable, Atlas worked the crowd to a fever pitch ("I'm a nice guy!" the heel Atlas proclaimed to a booing crowd), and after the match Snuka signed autographs for 15 minutes for the adoring crowd. By the way, Snuka pinned Atlas clean in the middle of the ring, an ending that "major" promoters should use with greater frequency in main-events. Young talent like The Metal Maniac & Johnny Rotten shined, although they were forced to "put over" guys like S.D. Jones & Cousin Luke which is booking I just can't understand. Anyway, it's a weird thing to sit through 2 hours of wrestling, not watch a match that came near 3*, and nonetheless have a real decent time, but us hardcores can't help but love the atmosphere (local heels knocking off the caps of fans, faces shaking hands with the thrilled kiddies, wrestlers signing autographs amidst the crowd etc.). It's quite odd that theoretically I could buy a WWF ticket and see a "superior" show, but I would be so angered by the lack of effort and deterioration in their product that I would walk out feeling rage, instead of the "warm" indie feeling of knowing that regardless of ability the guys gave their all to show everyone a good time...

WHO'S THE GENIUS IN CHARGE DEPT.?

How come there are literally dozens of facilities in the NYC area that would be ideal for WCW (Queens College, Hunter College, etc. that have featured wrestling in the past), but they feel they have no outlet here. If you're only capable of drawing 3,000 and under, seems to me such sites would be ideal, as opposed to booking major arenas which turn out to be large graveyards when they do manage to come in.

That'll about do it. Catch you next month. Hopefully I'll be hitting an AWF Conn. card next week & I'll have a real live "arena report" for you all...

RL- AWF in Conn. rescheduled for 8/8.

NOTES FROM THE PARKING LOT

by
Marianne Ryan

What a great month it has been. First, my dad goes into the hospital. Then my roommate moves out leaving behind a major mess, not to mention a disconnected phone. The WWF sailed into town June 4th and 5th and I played hostess to Sherri Martel and Mike McGuirk. They treated me to an evening of flaming shots that ended at daybreak. Then, I get the mother of all colds. Still, I manage to do a column, and I drag myself to the copy place to fax it. I get my confirmation, return home and climb into bed. Of course, the damn thing never reaches Ron. It figures.

So what the hell is the matter with the WWF. It's first lady drops her macho man, talk is the Warrior is getting the belt back, and they are trying to push, get this, the Big Boss Man, as the next Hulk Hogan. I think they're not getting enough oxygen up in Titan Tower.

Let's talk about Warrior first. The man's ego is larger than our national debt. June 4th in Fort Wayne, he never showed up. His driver got lost. I think he asked Kerry Von Erich, who was with them, for directions. To pay for his no-show, Warrior had to do a job for Papa Shango the next night in Chicago. However, Mike was not allowed to announce that Papa was the winner. I find it ironic that Warrior, who has very little wrestling ability, is one of the most arrogant people I have ever met. At the same time, Ric Flair, one of the greatest wrestlers of all time, is one of the most friendly, down-to-earth guys around.

As for Boss Man, when was the last time he was involved in a major feud? And now, they are trying to hype him using Kevin Kelly, a guy most WWF fans have never heard of. When a match between him and Nailz was announced for the next card at the Horizon, a general ho-hum came from the audience. But then, they didn't seem any more excited about the return match between Warrior and Papa Shango.

Maybe it's me, but I can't help but think Razor Ramon would make a great pimp. All Vince needs to do now is bring back ladies wrestling, and put him in charge. Voila, some really great family entertainment. Of course, this could just be all that prescription medication ruining my brain.

Also, how can I truly respect WCW when a major part of their latest PPV is a bikini contest between Missy and Madusa. So the WWF is a circus, and WCW is a beauty pageant.

Anyway, I am looking forward to a visit from Marilyn Rundle who is finally bringing her butt to Chicago. I hope to take her to see WCW when they are here the 28th. Finally, as a personal note to Elizabeth, I just hope someday you realize how lucky you were. Until next month...

 CORRESPONDENT'S CORNER

St. Joe's High School Gym (IPWA)
 Correspondent: Dan Wolfe

Hammonton, NJ

June 12, 1992

1) Johnny Rebel drew with the Black Ninja. 2) Heavy Metal Maniac pinned J.T. Smith. 3) The Sandman beat Crybaby Waldo. 4) Larry Winters over Steve Savage. 5) John Rock beat J.T. Smith. 6) The Pharoah over Glen Osborne. 7) Pitbulldog Rex pinned Samoan Samu. ATT: 302

Brownson House (ASWA)
 Correspondents: John Lanigan & Andy Stowell

Washington, PA

June 13, 1992

1) Tomb of the Darkriders beat Biff Bartholomew in a cage match in 2:28 with a clothesline. D+ 2) Kid Collins scissored Tyler of the Dark Riders in 8:13 in another cage bout. B- 3) Geno Rocco beat ASWA champ Charlie Fulton via DQ in yet another cage contest in 10:56. C+ 4) Randy Lewis DDT'd Inmate John Manson at 6:34. C 5) Cody Michaels beat Lord Zoltan after Zoltan bumped into his manager Sam Siegel. C+ 6) Little Ninja superflyed on top of Mighty Moses in a midget match at 17:44. C 7) Dominic DeNucci airplaned spinned Masked Superstar (Kurt Kaufman) in 8:38. C ATT: 95

National Guard Armory (NCW)
 Correspondent: Danny Parris

Inman, SC

June 13, 1992

1) Mitch Pruitt beat Dr. X (Mike Somani) via DQ in 10:43. * 2) Jeff Hamrick over Billy Eagle in 11:33. ** 3) Brodie Chase & Mike Hart over Butcher Blackwell & Rattlesnake Westbrook in 17:01 to earn a shot at the NCW tag belts on the next card. *½ 4) Jay Eagle beat Chris Landell in 14:47. **½ 5) Bambi over Peggy Lee Leather in 11:36. Dud 6) Wahoo McDaniel beat Russian Assassin (Hunter Thompson) in an indian strap match in 7:52. Chase & Hart came out to beat up Wahoo turning heel and Jay Eagle made the save. ** 7) Bambi won a blindfold battle royal in 15:16. * ATT: 120

Pittsburgh Civic Arena (WWF)
 Correspondents: Andy Stowell & John Lanigan

Pittsburgh, PA

June 19, 1992

1) Tito Santana used the flying burrito to beat Skinner. †* 2) Road Warrior Animal used the Oklaahoma Stampede to beat Blake Beverly (Mike Enos). Bloom no showed in what was to be a tag bout. *½ 3) Rick Martel defeated Tatonka via count out when both were brawling outside and Tatonka threw Rick back into the ring but didn't make it himself. *½ 4) Ultimate Warrior used a big splash to beat Papa Shango. **½ 5) Crush forced Kato to submit. -*½ 6) Owen Hart & Koko Ware beat the Nasty Boys via DQ when Saggs brought a chair into the ring to break up a pin. ** 7) Bret Hart rolled up Shawn Michaels to retain the I-C title. After the bout, Michaels left Hart laying. Great match. **** 3,700

Hudson Field House (IWF)
 Correspondent: James Baker

Hudson, MA

June 20, 1992

1) Mr. Attitude and Smooth Operator went to a time limit draw. ** 2) Misty Blue beat Linda Dallas via DQ when Dallas brought in a kendo stick. *** 3) IWF champion Mad Dog Richard beat Sean Monahan with a legdrop from the top rope in 18:11. ** 4) Bulldoxer used all of his 450 pd. frame to splash Tim McNeary in 8:20. *½ 5) Rio Lord of the Jungle beat the Designated Hitter with a clothesline from the top rope in 13:50. Rio is a Chris Walker clone. **½ 6) Honkey Tonk Man & Perry Saturn beat Bob Orton & Chris Duffy in 16:05. Duffy got the crowd hot by trying to sing Barry Manilow tunes. Orton hit special ref Killer Kowalski with a chair but Kowalski hit Duffy with a clothesline and counted the pin for Honkey & Saturn. **** ATT: 250

East Park Recreation Center (NWF)
 Correspondent: Ken Verret

Houma, LA

June 21, 1992

1) Joey Maggs beat Buddy Lee Parker in 10:11. 2) Kevin Sullivan squashed Frogman Leblanc in 2:20. 3) Abdullah the Butcher and Butch Reed went ot a double DQ in 3:15 in which Abby bled. 4) Chris Adams & Steve Pritchard beat Ron Powers & Nightstalker in 38:35. 5) Junkyard Dog beat Bob Orton in a lumberjack match in 13:52. ATT: 355

Tampa Sportatorium (ICWA)
 Correspondent: Paul Spiegel

Tampa, FL

June 25, 1992

1) Coconut Man drew Hurrican Walker. 2) Allen Iron Eagle over Canadian Bad Boy. 3) Jimmy Backlund pinned Mad Bill Pain (Not Bull Pain. This is one of Backlund's students.) Mark Star & Kendall Windham came out to beat up Jimmy

until Robert Fuller made the save. 4) Mark ~~Sater~~^{Starr} pinned Rico Frederico.
5) Robert Fuller beat Kendall Windham (sub for Dick Slater who was in K.C.
for WCW) on a reverse decision as Starr & his valet Misty interfered.

#LETTERS TO "AR"

He Wants To Be Like Ron

I sort of agree with what you said in "AR" about the Steiners. What gets me is they seem to be jerks. Working stiff is one thing but purposely mangling jobbers who may miss a move is uncalled for. Come on Ron, you know they treated Fujinami & Iizuka like shit. Management needs to take them down a peg.

Finally, you better work on the basketball game bud because when I get you at the next gathering it's not going to be pretty.

Bob Ferretti
Jessup, PA

RL- You know that jingle they play for Air Jordan? "Like Mike, I want to be like Mike." Insert my name and that's your hoop dream pal.

Indies

Most sheet followers aren't the average couch potato weekend fan. We live and breathe professional wrestling. The chief reason I follow the IWF is that they have a television outlet and I can catch show dates, locations, and a number to call to verify the date and order tix. What I am getting at is when an indy promotion comes to a small town, they don't have money to advertise so if a fan does not live in that area they'll miss the show. The promoters fail to realize that some of us will drive 100 miles if we know about a show. A mailing list would be a great investment on their part. A post card or a stamp is a small price to pay for a \$10.00 seat. Also I may refuse to go to some shows because I may drive 100 miles and find the show has been cancelled. Jerry Gray has crappy booking policies and he wonders why he can't get 50 people to his shows. He has a hit and miss irregular schedule. Eddie Mansfield taped April 18 at Universal and I have yet to see those matches if they took place so I don't see the purpose of a July 4 taping. They have a good show and I was told they'll try to regroup and push harder again this summer.

As far as the talk about Larry Sharpe coming to Florida-another promotion here won't hurt. It's not how many promotions are in an area that counts, but how good these promotions are. I for one can make room for Larry Sharpe. I use to live in Jersey and saw some of his shows. I realize that with "school" shows there are no shows and some missed moves but the end result is 1) if there is an effort and 2) what you think when that last bell has rung.

Matt Langley
Ocala, FL

RL- As far as the IWF is concerned, they ended up cancelling that 4/18 taping but the 7/4 taping is a definite go.

Craig Johnson's Heel Turn

Scott Hudson's report about the heel turn of S/WA ring announcer Craig Johnson intrigues me. When Johnson clobbered "Candyman" Carl Church with an Atlanta Braves batting helmet, did he swing the helmet left handed or right handed? Did Johnson curl his lips and issue a foul oath before he struck Candyman? Did he kick Candyman and spit on him after he went down? Did he then turn to the fans and flip them off? Was he wearing face paint? And why did Johnson use a batting helmet? Wouldn't a hockey stick equipped with a 50,000 volt electrical charge have been more efficient?

Finally, why was Steve Prazak suspended for five weeks? For using the 20 page, June double issue of Pro Wrestling Sushi as a weapon? Inquiring inside minds want to know!

Jeff "Tux-a-mania" Mullins
San Jose, CA

RL- "AR" readers who have never subscribed to Sushi can get the double issue free if they order four copies at the regular \$6.00 price from Jeff Mullins P.O. Box 36189, San Jose, CA 95158. For funny to serious wrestling coverage the price is a steal.

Steiners

Your comment on the Steiners fuss certainly grabbed my attention. While I seem to be leaning toward just forgetting about the incident a small comment you made won't let me. You made the point of defending the Steiners by asking if they'd done the same things to Diamond Dallas Page would there have been such an uproar? Hell no, but that's the point. Page can't work a lick, while Iizuka can. The Steiners are stiff wrestlers and that's fine. But there is a point in which certain wrestlers must be respected. The Steiners

lack respect for hard workers and decided to declare the match a war zone. This lack of respect is what everyone is in an uproar about.

Unlike most, I don't want to see anybody teach anybody any lessons (except maybe to work harder and how to show up for matches, hear me softball Sid?) What the Steiners did is over with and there is certainly no reason for anybody else to get hammered legitimately. The business is about making it look real not really blasting each other. As long as the Steiners keep it "clean" then stiff is great.

By the way, there may be another story to this. The Steiners drew instant heat for their actions while I seem to recall the Legion of Doom doing this for years without nearly the same amount of heat. Just a thought.

Mike McKenna
Longwood, FL

RL- Good point on the Roadies. Your thinking on the Page-Steiner deal makes it sound like it's alright for the Steiners to treat jobbers the same way as that's all Page basically is is a glorified jobber. You can't make different rules for different wrestlers. They are all in the biz no matter how they got there

WWF TV Taping

I am very concerned about Vic...er...I mean Butch...or is it Vic? I'm trying to get over massive burnout! I tell you, the recent WWF TV tapings did not help. No one but my crowd knew it was a taping so you can imagine about the third time Crush comes out, the crowd was so brain dead that the entire arena could hear me harangue Tom Cole (Hey, I'm not proud.)...and they didn't even know who he was. The staff of Rupp Arena owes me a debt of gratitude as my stand up routine calmed a potentially dangerous crowd. My one mistake: the "SAYONARA HOGAN" sign. 1) No one knew what sayonara meant and 2) Once I told them they still didn't know what it meant.

George Maranville
Lexington, KY

Top Ten

- Top ten ways to tell that Bill Watts is having a positive influence on WCW.
- 1) Dustin Rhodes is ordered to do a clean job for Rick Rude and goes crying to papa. Dusty complains that his boy doesn't do jobs and gets fired on the spot.
 - 2) Johnny B. Badd is released from his contract for being a "cartoonish sissy boy", immediatly signs with the WWF, becomes IC champion within three months.
 - 3) A grovelling Sid Vicious is thrown out of Watts' office by Missy Hyatt & Mike Graham. He then becomes the token butt boy of a recently reinstated Pat Patterson after promising to "play ball" with him.
 - 4) Crippler Ray Stevans and Ole Anderson become WCW tag team champions with their patented high flying styles.
 - 5) After his educated and insightful comments about how AIDS cannot be transmitted through self inflicted head wounds, Dr. Watts renames WCW - the AMA.
 - 6) The Kip Frey dunk tank is the most popular attraction at the WTBS employee picnic.
 - 7) Marcus Bagwell is alleged to have "exposed his business" in a secluded stairwell at the Omni. Since Missy Hyatt was the only witness present, she is immediatly fired for fraternization.
 - 8) Eddie Gilbert is hired and immediatly fired.
 - 9) Jim Ross is told to "Shut up! Just shut up!"
 - 10) The Steiner Brothers are ordered to "do a number" on Jane Fonda while appearing on her latest workout tape. They respond by piledriving her onto co-star Richard Simmons who immediately takes a position as a WWF ring boy.

Butch Bigelow
Dead Dog, KY

Newsletter Writers

Well, it was too funny for words. In the same issue of "AR" my good buddy Klone is blasting bullshitting, name dropping, ass kissing letter writers as his good buddy (and mine..hey, Lano is friends with everyone in the sheet world, is he not?) Mike "The Eternal Cavity" Lano is shitting people, dropping names, and kissing ass. Funny thing though Mike. How come not 5 months ago you were promising everyone who would listen that you would keep quiet in the sheets and not stir anything up? Short memory or what?

Just wanted to expand on my statement about the sheets discussing steroids (sorry Bowdren) and scandals. I know that any writing up until the allegations were made would have been merely speculation, rumors, and gossip. But is this not a large part of many of the sheets? Especially the letters pages? I didn't mean to imply that they could have been news years ago. Could have been opinion pieces.

I rarely compliment Dave Meltzer. However, he deserves some of late. He was in my estimation the only credible guest on that Donahue show. More to the point, while I am personally sick of steroids and scandals, I feel Meltzer has done an excellant job of covering these things. Plus his analysis of the

hiring of Bill Watts was the best piece of analytical writing I have ever seen in a wrestling publication.

Rodney Leighton
Pugwash, Nova Scotia

(continued from page 2)

WCW moved their St. Petersburg date from 8/1 to 9/25. When I questioned the Bayfront Center about it, they said WCW officials had both dates booked and felt they were too close together. What???? That's eight weeks apart! So much for building your house show business. TV in Tampa for the group is tremendous too.....Notes from the big TV week of WCW with "Beach Blast" and the Clash: I enjoyed the PPV better. Watts opening commentary gave me goose bumps as it actually felt like a show meaning something. What a breath of fresh air to see a heel win a title clean as Flamingo did.....For a company that supposedly wants to get rid of the ramp, they sure used it alot....When Bagwell started selling the knee I told Klon I would give the bout 2* if Marcus submitted to the figure four. I'm glad I had to keep my word..... Sting-Cactus was absolutely incredible but it's too bad they followed it with Rude-Steamboat. Why didn't they put the six man in there? Could it be because Dustin was in it?.....Did you hear a collective groan coming from Melbourne when Steamboat came out with his family? Mr. Sadistic Klon wanted to see them use little Ricky in an angle and have Rude beat the kid.....Halfway through the Gordy-Williams vs. Steiners match I thought I needed to be reeducated too. The match wasn't doing anything for me. But Watts couldn't let the guys go all out since he wants this program to last a while.....The Clash was good but I have a problem with watching a major show and there is no heat whatsoever with the live crowd. Why couldn't WCW had put these teams over in squashes on TBS for a couple of weeks before trotting them out in front of fans who for the most part didn't have a clue.....Bob Cook & Joe Cruz ended up being in the right place at the right time.....Was Nikita out of his element with the Malenkos or what?.....Not much can be said for Pillman & Liger vs. Benoit & Wellington except there's an obvious example of why they should reinstate that goofy top rope rule....Harley Race still takes better bumps than 3/4 of the WWF crew. Oh, oh, I guess I showed favoritism there eh?.....Steiners vs. Gordy and Williams was a lot better here and I was about to eat my words after Williams slapped Rick in the corner and Steiner shot out and tackled Doc and started laying in fists to the head.....I'll be writing in some late news and results from tonight (6/28) but don't forget we'll see you back here in 3 weeks with the issue cover dated 7/20. Thanks for reading everyone.

See ya,

Ron

Century Wrestling in Wallingford, CT on 6/28 saw Don Muraco pin Monkeytonk Man, Tony Atlas over Jimmy Snuka, Bushwhackers downed Powers of Pain (warlord & Barbarian) via DQ, Johnny Rodz beat Chris Candido and in a wild tag match, Eddie Gilbert & Vic Steamboat beat Kevin Sullivan & Tazmaniac via DQ which saw Gilbert handcuffed to the ropes and steamboat hung with a coat hanger. Att: 1,500..... For those that subscribe to Three Count, editor Alex Mauer has had some technological problems while in N.Y. but will have 2 issues out by 7/1 and another the end of this week.... There is talk that Kevin Sullivan & Lou Perez want to start yet another promotion here in Florida with an FMW style. Sullivan is as good as anyone for that.....